

REMARKS

Status of case

Claims 1-4, 7-10, 13, 14, 16, and 20-25 are cancelled. Claims 5-6, 11-12, 15, and 17-19 are pending. Claims 5, 6, 11, 12, 15, and 17 were deemed allowed.

Claim objections

Claims 18 and 19 were objected to as being of improper dependent form. Per the suggestion in the Office Action, applicants amend claim 18 to recite dependence on claim 15 or 17.

Rejections based on 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph

Claims 21-24 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph as being indefinite. To advance prosecution and not to be interpreted as acquiescing to the rejection, Applicants hereby cancel claims 21-24. Applicants contend that claims 21-24 were not indefinite in the term "estimating the presence area in a way which is different from step (f)."

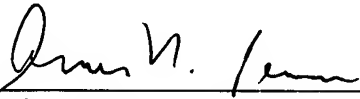
Rejections based on 35 U.S.C. §103

Claim 25 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 as being unpatentable over Kojima (U.S. Patent No. 6,272,344) in view of Jones (U.S. Patent No. 6,363,323). Again, to advance prosecution and not to be interpreted as acquiescing to the rejection, Applicants hereby cancel claim 25.

SUMMARY

Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner grant early allowance of this application. The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned attorneys for the Applicant via telephone if such communication would expedite this application.

Respectfully submitted,



Amir N. Penn
Registration No. 40,767
Attorney for Applicant

BRINKS HOFER GILSON & LIONE
P.O. BOX 10395
CHICAGO, ILLINOIS 60610
(312) 321-4200